

Meeting	SPA Authority Meeting
Date	19 January 2022
Location	Video-conference
Title of Paper	SPA Chair's Report
Presented By	Martyn Evans
Recommendation to Members	For discussion
Appendix Attached:	NO

Purpose

To update Authority Members on activities carried out by the Chair since the November 2021 Authority meeting.

Op Talla Briefings

In December I had a number of discussions with the leadership team about their intention to re-instate some of the elements of their Op Talla team and structure in light of the growing challenges faced by the surge in Covid cases. Police Scotland has shared daily briefings with the Authority since to ensure it is sufficiently informed in real time and the impact on service delivery and our workforce can be tracked and monitored by our staff and the relevant Committees.

Call Handling

On the 16 December 2021, the Authority received a further briefing from Police Scotland in relation to rising numbers of staff absences in C3 due to the surge in cases and related isolation rules. As anticipated, this was having an immediate impact on 101 non-emergency response times. As a result Police Scotland proactively communicated to the public to expect longer waiting times for 101 calls.

The Authority's Policing Performance Committee will continue to monitor Police Scotland's call handling and response times. The next meeting is scheduled for 9 March 2022 where Members will be provided with an update on the position over the festive and New Year period.

COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum

I attended my second meeting of the COSLA Police Scrutiny Conveners Forum on Thursday 2 December. This was a positive session with our local government partners and I am encouraged by the feedback I received from attendees, with particular reference made to Police Scotland's delivery of a safe and secure COP26 event.

Updates were provided to conveners on the tripartite review of the Local Police Plans – we expect to finalise the report with COSLA and Police Scotland this month. Conveners remain interested in call handling performance which the Policing Performance Committee continues to monitor and I have provided an update on this below.

Complaints, Investigations and Misconduct in Policing - Meeting of the Ministerial Group

I attended a meeting of the Ministerial Group on 2 December to review progress on the Dame Elish recommendations. I was accompanied by

Alasdair Hay, Chair of the Complaints and Conduct Committee, and Chris Brown, Acting Chief Executive. Significant progress was reported by partners including the Authority and Police Scotland at the meeting. Following the meeting, the Scottish Government published the second Thematic Progress report which can read at the following link: [Ministerial Group – Thematic Progress Report – December 2021](#). While recommendations requiring legislative change remain outstanding, the Scottish Government has reported that engagement and consultation in this regard is placed for 2022.

Scottish Police Federation – Annual Awards

I attended the Scottish Police Federation’s Annual Awards event which took place on 25 November 2021. This was a celebratory event to mark the exceptional contribution Police Scotland’s officers make up and down the country. Each and every nomination for an award was a worthy winner and I congratulated all nominees on behalf of the Authority. It’s events like the SPF awards that reinforce the fact that policing is a people led service. I hope the individuals recognised feel as proud of their achievements as we do. Members can find out more about the awards and finalists here:

https://issuu.com/starkevents/docs/final_spf_document

Vic Emery OBE

The Authority was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Vic Emery OBE on 18 December 2021. Vic was the first Chair of the Scottish Police Authority and he made a significant and lasting contribution in those early years of police reform. Vic will be remembered by many for the substantial role he played in strengthening public services in Scotland and beyond, and his loss has been felt across civic society.

RECOMMENDATION

To update Members on activities carried out by the Chair since November’s Authority meeting.